It is 1669 kilometres. It cannot be done overnight. The National Highway forms part of 683 kilometres, State Highways: 870 kilometres, and other roads: 116 kilometres. So, this has to be approached in a proper way, and it has to be comprehensively decided by all the concerned authorities.

Six laning of Golden Quadrilateral

*125. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would shortly roll out a mega Rs. 175,000 crore project for six laning of the entire 'Golden Quadrilateral' network for complete execution on build-operate-transfer basis;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the funds allocation for this purpose during the current Five Year Plan;

(d) the progress achieved in this direction, so far;

(e) whether Government would build the project on the public private-partnership model;

(f) if so, the ration thereof; and

(g) whether Government had set any time-frame to complete this mega project?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) (a) to (g) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (g) There is a proposal under consideration to widen 6500 km of National Highways to six-lanes on Build Operate and Transfer Basis under National Highways Development Project (Phase-V) at cost of about Rs. 22750 crore including the entire length of 5846 km. of Golden Quadrilateral. The details are under discussion with the Planning Commission.

SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Golden Quadrilateral Programme is a unique programme. It connects the East, West, North, South, and the metropolitan cities of our country. The hon. Minister has only partly answered my question. He has not mentioned the progress achieved so far and whether the Government would build the project on

public or private partnership model. The progress of the programmes running slowly leads to cost escalation. In order to avoid cost escalation, is there any time-bound programme for completion of these programmes? I would also like to know from the hon. Minister regarding the projects in Andhra Pradesh and its status.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, I am happy to announce that on the Delhi-Mumbai stretch, 1419 kilometres of four-lane has already been completed. It was completed day-before-yesterday. Out of the Mumbai-Chennai stretch of 1290 kilometres, we have completed 1128 kilometres, and the balance is 162 kilometres. Out of the Kolkata - Chennai stretch of 1684 kilometres, completed stretch is 1454 kilometres. In Kolkata - Delhi stretch of 1453 kilometres, we have completed 1054 kilometres, the balance is 399 kilometres. So, out of 5846 kilometres of Golden Quadrilateral, we have completed 5055 kilometres, balance is 791 kilometres.

Sir, as far as the North-South Corridor is concerned, the total length is 4000 kilometres. The East-West Corridor is 3,300 kilometres. We have completed 575 kilometres of North-South Corridor, work on the 1221 kilometres of length is ongoing, and work on 1938 kilometres is to be awarded. As far as the East-West Corridor is concerned, we have completed 209 kilometres. Work on 2566 kilometres is ongoing, and work on 688 kilometres is to be awarded. As of now, totally, work on 3787 kilometres length is ongoing. We have completed 784 kilometres in the corridor, and work on 2626 kilometres is to be awarded. During the period of $1^{1}/_{2}$ years, 114 contracts have been finalised for 4748 kilometres.

As far as the Andhra Pradesh portion is concerned, in Kolkata - Chennai portion, National Highway No. 5, Ganjam - Icchapuram section, of 50.8 kilometres, the particular contract was terminated on 14.1.2004. The contractor was a bad performer. The bids have been invited and work is likely to be awarded by January 2006. It will take another 28 months for it to be completed. In the Sikohabad - Etawah and in Delhi - Kolkata region, the contract was terminated on 9.6.2004 and the balance work was awarded in September, 2005. It will take another 24 months to complete. In the Srikakulam - Champalvati, Kolkata-Chennai portion, the contract was terminated on 21.12.2004. A letter of intent has been issued and it will be completed in 12 months. The Delhi - Kolkata-Etawah bypass is to be awarded shortly, Sir. It will take 24 months to be completed.

SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Sir, my second supplementary is this. This is a unique programme and the pace of the work on this project

needs a thorough scrutiny. The local representatives like MLAs, and Members of Parliament should be kept informed about the details of the project. Sir, there is the Vigilance and Monitoring Committee in DRDA programmes headed by the local MPs. Is the Minister willing to constitute a committee to monitor the progress of important programmes, involving the local representatives?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, the Government is not inclined to have such committees. And, at the same, if a particular Member of Parliament wants to inspect a particular site, let them write to me. I will coordinate with them and my people will be very much happy to take them to that site.

PROF. P.J. KURIAN: Sir, from what the hon. Minister has replied, it is clear that the work of the Golden Quadrilateral is progressing as per schedule, and perhaps, faster than expected. Sir, the Golden Quadrilateral is a very prestigious project, but it does not touch even an inch of my State Kerala. We had given a representation regarding this Golden Quadrilateral that it should be linked to Cape Comorin *via* Trivandrum and Kerala. I am sure the hon. Minister is aware of that proposal. If so, what is your reaction to that? Have you taken any steps for that?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, there are two nomenclatures, Golden Quadrilateral and North-South corridor. As far as North-South corridor is concerned, definitely, there is a stretch. There is a special spur from Salem to Cochin which is in progress. Golden Quadrilateral cannot touch now. It is not possible because it is about to be completed by June.

SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Sir, the Golden Quadrilateral project is very important project. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested for the reimbursement of 40 per cent of the project cost of Rs. 1,630 crores, for the completion of Mumbai-Pune Express work which is under the purview of the Central Government, on the lines of Golden Quadrilateral project. Sir, what is the response of the Government thereto? I also want to know what decision has since been taken in regard to reimbursement.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, Mumbai-Pune falls under the domain of State Governments.